

[illegible]

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for identifying a record with valid address information, but
2 invalid name information, comprising:
3 obtaining a record containing a name and an address;
4 determining if the address is in a set of known addresses; and
5 if the address of the obtained record is determined to be in the set of known
6 addresses, determining if the name of the obtained record is in a subset of
7 known names associated with the address by calculating a weighted name
8 value for the name and comparing the weighted name value with a
9 predetermined threshold name value.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising if the address is determined to be in the set of known addresses and the name is determined to not be in the subset of known names associated with the address, marking the record as having valid address information, but invalid name information.

- 1 3. The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising preventing
2 information from being mailed to the address of the marked record.

- 1 4. The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising removing the
2 marked record from a database of records.

- 1 5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein weighted name value is
2 calculated using the formula:

$$WNV = (W1 \cdot V1) + (W2 \cdot V2) + \dots (Wn \cdot Vn)$$

4 where WNV is the weighted name value, $W(1,...,n)$ is the weight assigned to components

5 of the name and $V(1,...n)$ is a value assigned to components of the name.

1 6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein $V(1,...n)$ is assigned a value of
2 1 if the component matches a corresponding component of a name in the subset of known
3 names and 0 if the component does not match the corresponding component of the name
4 in the subset of known names.

1 7. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the name is determined to not
2 be in the subset of known names associated with the known address if the weighted name
3 value is less than the threshold name value.

1 8. The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising, if the address is
2 determined to be in the set of known addresses and the name is determined to not be in
3 the subset of known names associated with the known address, marking the record as
4 having valid address information, but invalid name information.

1 9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of determining if the
2 address is in a set of known addresses comprises calculating a weighted address value for
3 the address and comparing the weighted address value with a predetermined threshold
4 address value.

1 10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein weighted address value is
2 calculated using the formula:

3
$$WAV = (W1 \cdot V1) + (W2 \cdot V2) + \dots (Wn \cdot Vn)$$

4 where WAV is the weighted address value, $W(1,...n)$ is the weight assigned to
5 components of the address and $V(1,...n)$ is a value assigned to components of the
6 address.

1 11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein $V(1,...n)$ is assigned a value

2 of 1 if the component matches a corresponding component of an address in the set of
3 known addresses, 0 if the component is not found in the set of known addresses and -1 if
4 the component does not match the corresponding component of the address in the set of
5 known addresses.

1 12. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the obtained address is
2 determined to be in the set of known addresses if the weighted address value for the
3 address is less than a predetermined threshold address value.

1 13. The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising, if the address is
2 determined to be in the set of known addresses and the name is determined to not be in
3 the subset of known names associated with the known address, marking the record as
4 having valid address information, but invalid name information.

1 14. A method for identifying records with valid address information, but
2 invalid name information, comprising:
3 obtaining a record containing a name and an address;
4 determining if the address is in a set of known addresses; and
5 if the address of the obtained record is determined to be in the set of known
6 addresses, determining if the name of the obtained record is in a subset of
7 known names associated with the address using a heuristic.

1 15. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heuristic comprises
2 calculating a weighted name value for the name and comparing the weighted name value
3 with a predetermined threshold name value.

1 16. The method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising if the address is
2 determined to be in the set of known addresses and the name is determined to not be in
3 the subset of known names associated with the address, marking the record as having
4 valid address information, but invalid name information.

1 17. The method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising preventing
2 information from being mailed to the address of the marked record.

1 18. The method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising removing the
2 marked record from a database of records.

1 19. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein weighted name value is
2 calculated using the formula:

3
$$WNV = (W1 \cdot V1) + (W2 \cdot V2) + \dots (Wn \cdot Vn)$$

4 where WNV is the weighted name value, $W(1, \dots, n)$ is the weight assigned to components
5 of the name and $V(1, \dots, n)$ is a value assigned to components of the name.

4 the component does not match the corresponding component of the address in the set of
5 known addresses.

1 26. The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the obtained address is
2 determined to be in the set of known addresses if the weighted address value for the
3 address is less than a predetermined threshold address value.

1 27. The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising, if the address is
2 determined to be in the set of known addresses and the name is determined to not be in
3 the subset of known names associated with the known address, marking the record as
4 having valid address information, but invalid name information.

1 28. A system for identifying a record with valid address information, but
2 invalid name information, comprising:
3 means for obtaining a record containing a name and an address;
4 means for determining if the address is in a set of known addresses; and
5 means, if the address of the obtained record is determined to be in the set of
6 known addresses, for determining if the name of the obtained record is in a
7 subset of known names associated with the address by calculating a
8 weighted name value for the name and comparing the weighted name
9 value with a predetermined threshold name value.

1 29. The system as claimed in claim 28, further comprising means for marking
2 the record as having valid address information, but invalid name information if the
3 address is determined to be in the set of known addresses and the name is determined to
4 not be in the subset of known names associated with the address.

1 30. The system as claimed in claim 29, further comprising means for
2 preventing information from being mailed to the address of the marked record.

1 31. The system as claimed in claim 29, further comprising means for
2 removing the marked record from a database of records.

1 32. The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein weighted name value is
2 calculated using the formula:

$$\text{WNV} = (\text{W1} \cdot \text{V1}) + (\text{W2} \cdot \text{V2}) + \dots (\text{Wn} \cdot \text{Vn})$$

4 where WNV is the weighted name value, $\text{W}(1, \dots, \text{n})$ is the weight assigned to components
5 of the name and $\text{V}(1, \dots, \text{n})$ is a value assigned to components of the name, wherein
6 $\text{V}(1, \dots, \text{n})$ is assigned a value of 1 if the component matches a corresponding component
7 of a name in the subset of known names and 0 if the component does not match the
8 corresponding component of the name in the subset of known names.

1 33. The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the means for determining if
2 the address is in a set of known addresses comprises means for calculating a weighted
3 address value for the address and comparing the weighted address value with a
4 predetermined threshold address value.

1 34. The system as claimed in claim 33, wherein weighted address value is
2 calculated using the formula:

3
$$\text{WAV} = (W1 \cdot V1) + (W2 \cdot V2) + \dots (Wn \cdot Vn)$$

4 where WAV is the weighted address value, $W(1, \dots, n)$ is the weight assigned to
5 components of the address and $V(1, \dots, n)$ is a value assigned to components of the
6 address, wherein $V(1, \dots, n)$ has a value of 1 if the component matches a corresponding
7 component of an address in the set of known addresses, 0 if the component is not found
8 in the set of known addresses and -1 if the component does not match the corresponding
9 component of the address in the set of known addresses.

1 35. A mail processing system, comprising:
2 a computer; and
3 at least one printer coupled to the computer, the at least one printer being capable of
4 printing records comprised of names and an addresses to a mail media,
5 wherein the system is suitable for identifying if a record with valid address but an invalid
6 name by determining if the address is in a set of known addresses and, if the
7 address of the record is determined to be in the set of known addresses,
8 determining if the name of the record is in a subset of known names associated
9 with the address by calculating a weighted name value for the name and
10 comparing the weighted name value with a predetermined threshold name value.

1 36. The mail processing system as claimed in claim 35, wherein the record is
2 marked as having valid address information, but invalid name information if the address
3 is determined to be in the set of known addresses and the name is determined to not be in
4 the subset of known names associated with the address to prevent printing of the record.

1 37. An information handling system, comprising:
2 a computer; and
3 at least storage device coupled to the computer, the at least one storage device being
4 capable of storing records comprised of names and an addresses,
5 wherein the system is suitable for identifying if a record with valid address but an invalid
6 name by determining if the address is in a set of known addresses and, if the
7 address of the record is determined to be in the set of known addresses,
8 determining if the name of the record is in a subset of known names associated
9 with the address by calculating a weighted name value for the name and
10 comparing the weighted name value with a predetermined threshold name value.

1 38. The information handling system as claimed in claim 37, wherein the
2 record is marked as having valid address information, but invalid name information if the
3 address is determined to be in the set of known addresses and the name is determined to
4 not be in the subset of known names associated with the address.